

Message Text

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ACTION AGR-08

INFO OCT-01 ARA-06 EUR-12 ISO-00 EB-07 CIAE-00 INR-07

NSAE-00 SP-02 L-03 /046 W
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R 311313Z DEC 75

FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8318

INFO AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY BRASILIA

AMEMBASSY BUCHAREST

AMCONSUL LENINGRAD

AMEMBASSY MONTEVIDEO

AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

RUDKSA /AMEMBASSY SOFIA 2531

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PASS AGRICULTURE, FCA/FEED AND GRAIN/NOVOTNY

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: EAGR, UR

SUBJECT: COMMENTS ON USSR GRAIN PURCHASES

REF: FASTO CIRCULAR 559

1. AGATTACHE MET WITH PERSHIN/EXPORTKHLEB TO REVIEW CURRENT
IMPORT ESTIMATES REFTEL AND RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN GRAIN PICTURE.

2. PERSHIN ADVISED THAT TOTAL 1975 PURCHASES INDICATED IN
REFTEL WERE APPROXIMATELY CORRECT. SPECIFIC CHANGES IN
COUNTRY PURCHASES WERE NOTED. CANADIAN PURCHASES ARE SOME-
WHAT HIGHER AND WERE ATTRIBUTED TO NON-CWB PURCHASES. US AND
AUSTRALIAN DATA WERE CORRECT. WEST EUROPEAN PURCHASES
ARE ONLY 200,000 METRIC TONS -- BRAZIL, ARGENTINA AND
CANADA SHARE THE REMAINING 800,000 TONS.

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3. PERSHIN DID NOT INDICATE ORIGIN OF EAST EUROPEAN

PURCHASES, BUT ATTACHE IN PREVIOUS CONVERSATION WITH EAST EUROPEAN COUNTERPART DETERMINED THAT ROMANIA IS SOURCE OF GRAIN -- PRINCIPALLY WHEAT.

4. OTHER FOREIGN EMBASSY SOURCES INDICATED THAT SOME CORN PURCHASED FROM BRAZIL WILL MOVE TO CUBA. PERSHIN IMPLIED THAT SOME BULGARIAN CORN IS BEING SHIPPED TO CUBA. HOWEVER, NO US CORN OR OTHER GRAINS WILL BE SHIPPED TO CUBA.

5. SOYBEAN PURCHASES OF 1.5 MILLION TONS AGAIN CONFIRMED -- ALL REPORTEDLY FOR USSR DESTINATION AND CONSUMPTION.

6. UNLOADING AND DISCHARGING OF GRAIN STILL ESTIMATED AT AVERAGE OF TWO MILLION TONS A MONTH WITH POSSIBILITY UP TO FOUR MILLION TONS AT PEAK CAPACITY. INCREASED OFF-LOADINGS ABOVE AVERAGE OF TWO MILLION TONS MOST LIKELY TO OCCUR DURING SPRING AND FALL PERIODS, BUT SUCH VOLUME CANNOT BE SUSTAINED THROUGHOUT THE YEAR.

7. PERSHIN INDICATED THAT TEST VESSEL WITH USDA OFFICIAL ABOARD WILL ARRIVE LENINGRAD ABOUT JANUARY 5. WOULD APPRECIATE COMMENTS ABOUT USSR GRAIN TEAM VISIT TO US.
MATLOCK

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